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not "sanctioned at the polls," and it may be seriously doubted whether "faith in the people inspired the whole convention" of 1787. Other flaws might be found by an historical critic, but they may be pardoned to journalistic license, since they do not seriously vitiate the general merits and usefulness of the book. Advocates of the referendum will take positive exception to Mr. Howe's treatment of that subject. "Transforming the average citizen offhand by constitutional fiat into a doctor, a civil engineer or an architect" is hardly analogous to allowing the people to vote on public policies. One wonders what kind of experts the author thinks usually sit in our legislative halls, or whether he thinks only lawyers should sit there. Expert legal draftsmen (who are usually outside legislative halls) are needed under any system of legislation, direct or indirect.

The volume has no index, which indicates the journalistic character of the work. The appendix contains "information for first voters summarized from the election law of New York State." The book is well worth the reading of citizens, young or old.

JAMES A. WOODBURN.

University of Indiana.

A Republic of Nations. By RALEIGH C. MINOR. (New York: Oxford University Press. 1918. Pp. xxxiii, 316.)

The present volume is based upon the belief of the author that the only effective means by which an international court could be created with jurisdiction over those disputes between nations which give rise to war would be the formation of "some sort of federal union of nations." As a result of such a union the "political" controversies which have been in the past the cause of war and which have been excepted from arbitration treaties as being nonjusticiable would be eliminated, and such disputes as might thereafter arise between the nations would be legal and justiciable by reason of being covered by the constitution of the federal union. The elimination of political disputes would be brought about by the surrender to the union of those political powers of the several states the exercise of which leads to war, that is to say, the power to control commerce between the component nations, to acquire territory of other states, to mistreat their citizens, to lay burdens upon imports and exports, to maintain armaments in excess of a fixed proportion, to make treaties of alliance, and to declare war.

Assuming the necessity of this surrender of sovereign powers, and with no more than a formal attempt to discuss the political problems involved in it, Professor Minor undertakes to work out the agreements upon which the respective powers of the league and its component members would be based. These agreements are cast in the form of a tentative constitution for the "United Nations," the arrangement of which follows closely that of the Constitution of the United States, and the two are placed side by side for comparison in the Appendix.

It will not satisfy to reply to Professor Minor that his entire scheme is based upon an assumption of surrender of national sovereignty which is so far from being accepted by the nations as to make the entire discussion academic. The truth is that no league of nations is adequate to maintain peace unless certain problems of substantive law, such as the regulation of commerce between the nations, are squarely faced. The author meets the issue by demanding political federation. The demand is, it would appear, too idealistic at present, but the elaborate form in which it is here presented and the close parallel it offers to the American federation of 1789 will furnish many valuable points of comparison with the draft constitution of the league of nations now before the public, which, with its looser machinery and evasion of the chief sources of international dispute, represents the closest union considered practicable by the nations under present conditions.

C. G. FENWICK.

Bryn Mawr College.

Nationality and Government, with other War-time Essays. By ALFRED E. ZIMMERN. (New York: Robert M. McBride and Company. 1918. Pp. xxiv, 364.)

This volume is a collection of fourteen lectures and papers, written with one exception during the course of the war. Chapters I to IV deal with questions of nationality, attacking the doctrine that the national state is the proper unit of political organization; and drawing a distinction between nationality, as a subjective, spiritual, condition of mind, and political organization as an objective, practical, condition in law. The author believes that nationality is not necessarily a political question, that emphasis on nationality as the basis of state formation leads to oppression of minority groups and destroys freedom. He views nationality as essentially a problem of education, valuable as a means of preserving individual self-respect against a materialistic cosmopolitanism.